

# WINTER HAVEN POLICE

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Date: April 9, 2015  
Time: 10 A.M.  
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WINTER HAVEN – A Lakeland man is facing felony arson charges after he torched a vehicle inside of the garage of his former girlfriend. Twenty-four year-old James A. Carter (808 Florence Ave. N, Lakeland) admitted to investigators that he set the fire to exact revenge on the victim.

On 4-7-15 at approximately 3 a.m., Winter Haven Police along with the Winter Haven Fire Department responded to 654 Ave. O, SW, Winter Haven in reference to an attached garage on fire. The victim, 24 year-old Kiera Williams and her parents were asleep inside of the home when they heard loud bangs coming from the back of the residence. They found that Kiera's vehicle, which was inside of the attached and secured garage was fully engulfed in flames next to her parent's vehicle.

Fire investigators were able to determine that the point of origin of the fire was the hood of the victim's vehicle, which appeared to have a flammable liquid poured on and set fire. The vehicle was declared a total loss and the damage to the victim's parents' vehicle was extensive. Damage to the vehicles and property damage is estimated to be approximately \$60,000.

Williams had ended the 6-year relationship with Carter back in January of this year and obtained a temporary injunction for protection against him. Over the week prior to the fire, Carter had violated the injunction repeatedly by sending text messages to Williams. On 4-4-15, Williams found a burnt area on the front lawn of her Ave. O SE residence.

Later in the day on 4-4-15, Williams received a call from a blocked number. When she answered, it was Carter asking. "How did you put the fire out?" and promptly hung up. Williams contacted Winter Haven Police and filed a report for the violation of the injunction. Police attempted to locate Carter, but were unable to make contact.

On 4-7-15 after the fire was extinguished from inside of the garage, Williams saw that she had missed a text message to her phone from Carter stating that he had found some papers that she needs and asked what he should do with them. Because of the contact, Winter Haven Police attempted to contact Carter again. On 4-8-15, Carter met with Winter Haven Detectives regarding the violation of the injunction. During the interview, Detectives asked about any involvement Williams had regarding the fire at the victim's home. Initially Carter advised he had nothing to do with the fire. However, later in the interview, he made admissions to investigators of setting the fire.

Carter was booked into the Polk County Jail on charges of Domestic Violence – Aggravated Stalking after Injunction (F3), Burglary of Structure with Damage (F1) and First Degree Arson (F1).